

Welcome to the new Learning Disabilities Bulletin!

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Studies

[Parental Barriers, Enablers and Approaches to Communicating About Sexuality and Relationships with Their Children with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Scoping Review](#)

Children and young people with intellectual disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder can rely more on parents for relationship and sexuality information and support than children without these diagnoses.

[Genetic testing and analysis of 1024 children with global developmental delay or intellectual disability: a single-center cohort study](#)

Global developmental delay (GDD) and intellectual disability (ID) are common neurodevelopmental disorders with a strong genetic basis. However, comprehensive large-cohort analyses integrating genotype–phenotype correlations and functional mechanisms remain limited.

[Promoting Research Excellence in Down Syndrome: Proceedings of the 5th International Conference of the Trisomy 21 Research Society](#)

Down syndrome (DS), or trisomy 21 (T21), represents the most common genetic cause of intellectual disability worldwide and is associated with a wide range of medical, developmental, and neurodegenerative conditions, including a universal predisposition to early-onset Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Since its establishment in 2014, the Trisomy 21 Research Society (T21RS) has provided a global forum for advancing DS research across disciplines and promoting translational efforts to improve health and quality of life.

Guidance

[Changes to the definition of deprivation of liberty](#)

Update following the Supreme Court judgment on 2 June 2026 clarifying the definition of the deprivation of liberty.

[Supporting SEND reform: developing the Experts at Hand offer](#)

Guidance and documents setting out expectations for local authorities and integrated care boards to develop and deliver their Experts at Hand offer in year 1.

Reports

[Looking into mental health conditions, ADHD and autism \(easy read\)](#)

This report explains the progress of a review about mental health conditions, ADHD and autism.

Blogs

[Carers Week: Building Carer Friendly Communities](#)

This Carers Week, Family Member Representatives of Learning Disability England – Kate Chate, Liz Wilson, Paula Strike and James O'Rourke – reflect on this year's theme 'Building Carer Friendly Communities'.

[Finding My Voice Through Music](#)

In this blog, Simba Ngwarati, Percussionist with the CityLits Orchestra, shares how music helps him tell stories, express his feelings and connect with others. He also reflects on this year's Learning Disability Week theme, Do You See Me? and explains why it is important for people with learning disabilities to be able to explore their talents and have their voices heard.

News

[Supreme Court Judgement on Deprivation of Liberty](#)

The UK Supreme Court has changed the way the law on whether a disabled person is being deprived of their liberty if they cannot make the decision themselves.

[Cheshire West deprivation of liberty framework dismantled by Supreme Court ruling](#)

A much-anticipated new Supreme Court ruling has dismantled a landmark 2014 legal framework, known as Cheshire West, which established a universal "acid test" for determining when a disabled person is entitled to safeguards against deprivation of liberty.

[Supreme Court overrules Cheshire West: implications for deprivation of liberty law](#)

The UK Supreme Court has unanimously overruled the 2014 decision in Cheshire West in a significant judgment (UKSC 16, 2 June 2026), fundamentally reshaping how deprivation of liberty is assessed under Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

[Bild responds to Supreme Court ruling on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards](#)

This week, the Supreme Court ruled that the 2014 Cheshire West legal framework should be removed, taking away key human rights safeguards for many people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

[Supreme Court judgment to lead to fewer, but more complex, deprivation of liberty cases, say experts](#)

Ruling may not lead to significant drop in resources required to manage deprivation of liberty cases, while it will also require more in-depth assessments by social care practitioners, say mental capacity specialists.

[Ruling removes 'vital' UK safeguards for severely disabled people, charities warn](#)

Campaigners say supreme court judgment on deprivation of liberty safeguards introduces 'regressive legal standard'.

[The Supreme Court's reversal of the Cheshire West judgment explained](#)

Community Care Inform legal editor Tim Spencer-Lane explains the reasoning behind the Supreme Court's seismic judgment on deprivation of liberty that has overturned its 2014 Cheshire West ruling.

[From Cheshire West to the Northern Ireland Reference – what now for social care?](#)

A major legal shift – effective immediately. On 2 June 2026, the UK Supreme Court handed down a landmark judgment in A Reference by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland [2026] UKSC 16.

[Attachment and caregiving in families with parental learning disabilities](#)

Parents with learning difficulties often face significant challenges that contribute to their overall disadvantage. Research shows these parents are over-represented in child welfare systems, with international estimates suggesting that 40-60% of their children are removed from their care at some point (Tarleton, 2008; Emerson et al., 2005).

[Nearly half of UK employers fear getting it wrong when employing people with learning disabilities](#)

A new Mencap survey has found that although 80% of employers believe people with a learning disability can be productive at work, 48% do not employ them due to a 'misplaced fear' of getting it wrong.

[Local areas prepare new Experts at Hand teams](#)

Local areas to begin increasing access to speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and educational psychologists from September 2026.

[Milburn review highlights barriers to work for young disabled people](#)

Disability charities have welcomed findings from an independent review, led by former Health Minister Alan Milburn, which recognises the failure of government and employers to remove the barriers that young disabled people face when seeking and staying in work.

[Access to Work backlogs creating hardship and uncertainty for disabled people, PAC warns](#)

Significant failings in the Department for Work & Pensions' (DWP) administration of the Access to Work scheme are having a clear human cost for the very people it is designed to support.

[Timms PIP review: new workshop resources for disabled people launched](#)

The Government has launched new resources to help organisations run workshops and events for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions, as part of the Timms Review into the future of Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

[SEND, mental health and prevention overlooked in NHS reforms, say MPs preparing amendments to Health Bill](#)

The Health and Social Care Committee has today published a report outlining amendments to the Health Bill, including legal duties for NHS services to comply with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) tribunals.

[SEND: significant surge in demand for education, health and care plans](#)

Local authority councils are reporting a "very significant surge" in demand for education, health and care plan (EHCP) assessments, as parents seek to secure an EHCP before new SEND legislation takes effect in 2029 and a new tiered system is introduced.

Learning Disabilities

Intellectual disabilities Quality of life
Carers Research
Mental capacity Challenging behaviour
Health information



NHS

Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

16 June 2026

[Pernicious privatisation of special needs support](#)

Ian Abbott says the principle of inclusion for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities will remain illusory as long as private providers are in control. Plus Sarah Lane and Robin Davies on the need for special Send schools.

[New scheme to strengthen the future of learning disability nursing](#)

A new Learning Disability Nursing Shared Decision-Making Council has been launched by Kent and Medway Mental Health NHS Trust to strengthen the future of learning disability nursing and ensure that people with learning disabilities continue to receive high-quality, specialist care.

[Advancing PBS at the International Positive Behaviour Support Conference 2026 - Conference report](#)

This May, we welcomed almost 300 people in Bristol and online for the International Positive Behaviour Support Conference 2026, 'Advancing PBS: From expert-driven to experience-led'.

